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Disability Leadership Institute - Class of 2007-2009

Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

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Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Disability Leadership Institute

~ Class of 2007-2009 ~

Linda Elliot

Linda Elliott is featured in the photograph with Maine Senate President Libby Mitchell and Pat Ende, Maine's Chief Advocate to the Governor, who presented Linda with her Disability Leadership Institute Graduation Certificate. For Linda's Institute project she worked with her 26-year-old son to advocate for a community living option for him and two other young adults with disabilities who are living in nursing homes in eastern Maine. Linda and her son have designed a fully accessible home with the assistance of an architect, development board and advisory committee. Linda's work has attracted media attention at the local, state and national level, which has furthered fund-raising efforts to support construction of this home. The house will feature built-in ceiling lifts that will allow for easy transfer to and from a wheelchair, wiring for computer access and adapted doors that will allow residents to enter and exit unassisted. Their dream—which Linda is determined to make a reality—is to build a home that provides the opportunity for these young men to achieve greater independence and respect, and participate more fully in their community.

Disability Leadership Institute
Participant Spotlight

David Rand

David Rand is pictured proudly accepting his graduation certificate from Maine Senate President Libby Mitchell and Pat Ende, Maine's Chief Advocate to the Governor. For his second year project, David interned at the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council and assisted Council staff with Disability Awareness Day and Disability Advocacy Day activities.

~ ~

Hazel Hanscome & Mary Ellen Rosenberg

For their Leadership Institute project, Hazel and Mary Ellen teamed up to present an Emergency Preparedness Training Program developed by Speaking Up For Us, Maine's statewide self-advocacy organization, in their local communities. This training for first responders and self-advocates is to promote self advocates' involvement in the planning and implementation of emergency preparedness activities.

Disability Leadership Institute
~ 2007-2009 ~

Second Year Projects

Kris Adams
Kris became a member of an early intervention workgroup for the Pervasive Developmental Disorders Systems Change Initiative, providing valuable input as the parent of a child with a developmental disability.

Daniel Burke
Daniel visited local businesses in his community to educate business owners and employees about interacting with customers who have developmental disabilities.

Linda Dowling
Linda organized a support group in her town for 15-20 individuals with post-polio syndrome.

Maureen Gilbert
Maureen worked as a volunteer with individuals with disabilities who have experienced the loss of a parent or guardian.

Maryann Guernsey
Maryann increased public awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) by having 2 articles about FASD published in her local newspaper.

Donna Huot
Donna became a clinical case worker and advocate for children with disabilities.

Other Second Year Projects (cont.)

Donna Lee

Donna designed an emergency management plan for families of individuals with autism in her community. She worked with the local police and fire departments in order to have this plan take effect in the case of an emergency.

Christina Mailhot

Christina participated in the Community Bridges Conference in which she was a panel member advocating for community inclusion for all people with developmental disabilities.

Irene Mailhot

Irene participated in various advocacy activities to promote community inclusion in Maine. She also served on the board of a local Head Start program.

Christian Powers

Christian served as a board member for the Asperger's Association of New England. As a self-advocate he provided important input on this board.

Marc Roix

Marc became a member of the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council as well as a board member for the Maine CITE, a state project designed to promote assistive technology and universal design for children & adults with developmental disabilities.

Matthew Roix

Matthew became a board member for the Maine CITE, a state project designed to promote assistive technology and universal design for children & adults with developmental disabilities.